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June 19, 1997

No. 431

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: NOV 2002

(U) Kansi Captured

(U) *Editor's Note: The following is an edited transcript of the Agency Town Meeting held in the Headquarters Auditorium on June 18 regarding the capture of Mir Aimal Kansi.*

Executive Director Nora Slatkin: It's a great honor today to introduce to you our Acting Director. This is a day that brings satisfaction to the CIA family at the professional conclusion of an extraordinary four and a half year effort between us and the Bureau to bring criminals to justice. And it is a day that brings great pride in our people and their accomplishments, not only our people in the Counterterrorist Center, but our people throughout this Agency. While this day brings great satisfaction and great pride, we must always remember—and we must never forget—the two stars on the Memorial Wall. For those families, the tragedy doesn't end today. And it's a great plea-



PREEMPT... DISRUPT... DEFEAT



Mir Aimal Kansi

However Long It Takes

June 17, 1997



sure for me to introduce to you George Tenet because throughout his tenure as the Deputy Director and now as the Acting Director, I know from firsthand experience that there has not been an issue that has weighed more heavily on his mind than bringing to conclusion this chapter in our history. Finally, I just want to remind everyone that today sends a message to anyone who might consider such an action in the future: anywhere, anytime, no matter how long it takes. Now, please join me in welcoming our Acting Director, George Tenet.

ADCI George Tenet:

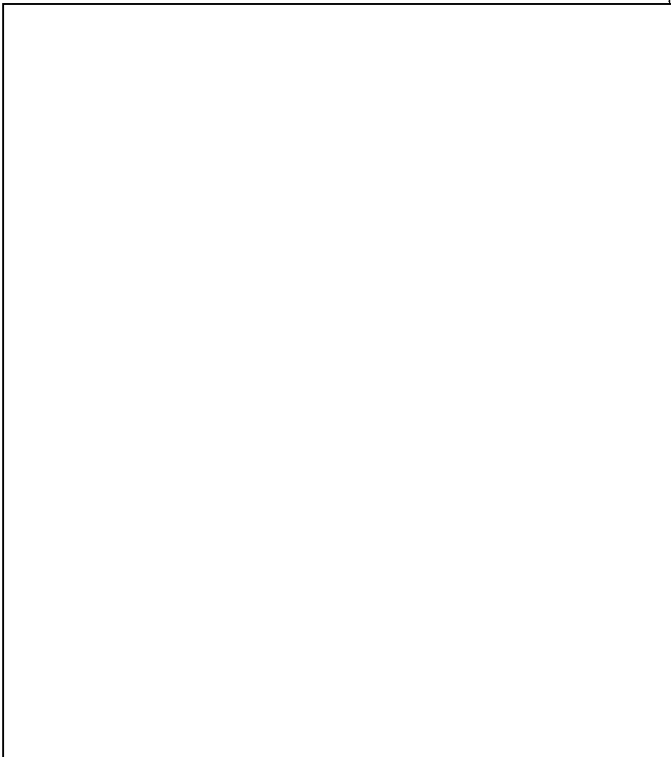
Last night at 8:19 p.m.

It marked the end of a long and emotional journey and a great operational success. Mir Aimal Kansi was returned to face justice for a murderous attack upon five of our colleagues in January of 1993. And I'm (continued on p. 2)

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here to tell you that he will never hurt anybody again.



Although we can't reveal the precise details of the arrest, I can tell you that Kansi was delivered into US custody abroad by Afghan foreign nationals. I can also say that this arrest is the result of hard work, unfaltering dedication, creativity, and a willingness to perform in the face of danger without pause. This is a time to both rejoice for justice and to remember with sadness, as Nora has said. What happened on January 25, 1993 was the unthinkable: the deliberate and cold murder of employees of this Agency. Within seconds, Lansing Bennett and Frank Darling were dead. Three others were injured, including Nicholas Starr, who very nearly died from massive loss of blood. We still remember and we still grieve for Lansing Bennett, 66 years old, father of four, and a doctor who dedicated his life to saving the lives of others. And for Frank Darling, only 28 years old, married just three months.

Shortly after the attack, the FBI identified a suspect, Mir Aimal Kansi, but he had fled, eventually going into hiding in Afghanistan. It was natural for all of us to feel rage after the attack, and frustration for the escape, but the wheels of justice continued to turn, even as we turned to our daily

tasks. It's been said that justice is truth in action. For four long years, month in and month out, our colleagues in the FBI, the State Department, as well as US legal attaches, and our own Agency employees, worked tirelessly to find Kansi and bring him back to justice. Kansi's arrest is the culmination of the relentless and patient efforts of scores of people working night and day.

There are a number of people with us today that I want to personally thank and I want you to personally thank. First I want to thank the remarkable men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who put their lives on the line to put Kansi to justice. They never wavered. With us today are a couple of people I want you to meet. First we have Tom Pickard, who is the Assistant Director of the FBI in the Washington Field Office. Ed Shubert and [redacted] are with us; they have been tirelessly helpful to us throughout this. And finally, I want to introduce you to the real hero here, Jimmy Carter, the Special Agent in Charge in the Washington Field Office, who was on the ground and led the men and women who brought this man to justice.

Second, I want to thank the men and women of our Counterterrorist Center and the Near East Division. I cannot say it better than the FBI official quoted in *The Washington Post* today, speaking in perfect FBI English, who said, "This was people who get their hands dirty. Those guys busted their humps on this. They're doing what they do best." And I would add that they do this each and every day. I'd like the men and women of CTC and NE to please stand so we can acknowledge you.

While no joy can come from this tragedy, it is my hope that the friends, family, and co-workers of those killed and injured in the shooting will find some small solace in the result.

We've spoken to the families of those killed and wounded in the attack. We spent a great deal of time and effort yesterday ensuring that the families were greeted by an Agency employee and an FBI agent wherever they were yesterday, to hear it from us before they heard it from anybody else. They were enormously gratified, but understandably this is a difficult time for them. We assured them that the CIA family stands ready to help in any way we can, and I know we can count on each and every one of you to help us in this regard.

Speaking of the CIA family, we also reached out to all of our former Directors. I talked to President Bush yesterday, who was just delighted that this had happened. I talked to Dick Helms, who I think became ten years younger when he heard the news. I talked to Jim Woolsey and John Deutch. They all—part of this family—were absolutely delighted for us.

All of you, the men and women of CIA, can rest assured that the pursuit of those involved in terrorism will continue to be one of this Agency's highest priorities. No terrorist, as Nora has said, should sleep soundly as long as this Agency exists. We will never forget our colleagues [redacted]

This is an important day in our Agency's history. Just as we celebrate CIA's 50th anniversary and reflect on past successes and accomplishments, I guarantee you that when they celebrate CIA's 75th and 100th anniversaries they will look at today and at this mission and marvel at the daring job that was very, very well done.

This is a great day for this Agency and the FBI and our country. I just want to say it is a great honor to serve with you. Thank you all very, very much.

I want to introduce just a few people to say just a few words. First, I'd like Tom Pickard to come up and say a few words for us. The relationship we have with the FBI is just absolutely remarkable; they're part of our family. Tom has a great New York accent; I will translate after he's done.

Tom Pickard: I will try to be a little more eloquent than I was recently, which will be difficult for me, but lest George get too far out on a limb, we're both from Queens, New York, so we both have that same heritage. I'd like to thank you. I'm a little embarrassed to be standing here in front of you to take these accolades for the work of Jimmy and the other people, [redacted]

Those are the individuals in harm's way. Those are the individuals who were at risk. I sat back here looking at George on audiovisual conferencing, or whatever they call it, trying to engage attorneys in all kinds of nonsense. But they do that well, and as I always tell George, I don't like to do my own

Headquarters—FBI Headquarters—I'm not crazy about coming here to CIA Headquarters, but if you want to meet someplace else, I'll be happy to. That's where the work gets done. But thank you all very much on behalf of all the men and women of the FBI. We really appreciate this, and I will convey it to the men and women in the Washington Field Office. Thank you.

ADCI Tenet: Next I'd like Dave Cohen, our DDO, to say a few words. No one was more relentless in the pursuit of this guy, in making sure we had the resources available and making sure that we never wavered than Dave. And I know that he has a few things to say to the men and women here today.

DDO Dave Cohen: I'm just going to quote a couple of great DO officers. As I thought about today [redacted] overhead my secretary, [redacted] talking to someone yesterday. And she just said it perfectly: "Do we do great work, or what?"

I can't say much beyond what Nora and George have already said on many of the important things that have transpired in these past few days. But there is something I want to say. It has been four years for the people who did this. For the people who started on this, it has been a long trail. They didn't know where it was going to end. The dedication, the commitment, the loyalty that it took for the people who started down this trail four years ago and stayed the course is really remarkable. It culminated these last couple of days, but it has been a long process.

All of the people who were involved demonstrated remarkable professionalism. The tradecraft, the decisionmaking, the skills, and the know-how that they brought to bear on this particular operation was exceptional. The courage and risk-taking have already been mentioned; people could have died. But also there were risks of making decisions that could have gone wrong, and yet, people had the courage to persevere. There was unselfishness, reliance on one another, and confidence in one another. These are remarkable qualities.

Let us remember the people who did this: the people in the field; the people who backed them up; the Bureau; and the people at Headquarters and across the Agency who *(continued on p. 4)*

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were brought in. As I think about these events and the people involved, these are the qualities that really characterize everyone in CIA. That's what makes up this remarkable work force. This team really personifies all of us. It's a very special opportunity to celebrate.

What distinguishes this particular activity, this particular operation, is that it cuts so close to the bone. But also, it's a public demonstration of our excellence and our skills and our capabilities. I was talking to [] last night in a quiet moment, just to say thank you to him and to [] said it fabulously: "We just did our job." And it struck a chord with me. Where I sit, I see things not as large as this, but also remarkable. Every day of the week, around the world, someone is doing something that's comparable. It really is incredible. And our frustration is that we can't share it with one another. But this we can share with one another. So let's leap on it, and ride it hard.

ADCI Tenet: Finally, I want to introduce [] CTC is really one of the finest organizations in this government. And it is a fine organization because it has a great leader. [] is that great leader and we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for what's happened here. It's my great honor and privilege to introduce him to you this morning.

C/CTC [] It was going to be hard enough to talk anyway. What I wanted to say: It's just been an extraordinary privilege for me, to sit where I sit as Deputy Chief and Chief/CTC, from just before the shooting until last night. The events of the last couple of weeks are truly heroic and I agree completely that 75 year and 100 year anniversaries will remember these events. I want you to know that over the last four years, from the morning of the 25th of January, week in, week out, month in,

month out, there was a relentless effort, not just in CTC, but literally in every corner of the Agency and the Intelligence Community to find this guy. As I thought about this in the last couple of days as the events went down, it almost sounded hackneyed, but I can tell you that I remember specific incidents, specific acts, done by people in every Division in the Directorate of Operations, from virtually every Office in the Directorate of Intelligence, all parts of the DS&T, all parts of the DA, []

[] who performed stunningly. This was a true Community effort, and woven together with our friends at the Bureau. A name that hasn't been mentioned is [] who was the first agent on the scene on the 25th of January and who stuck with it all the way through. He's the guy in the pressed shirt you see getting on the helicopter and getting off next to Jimmy Carter. It's just an outstanding example of teamwork and what really makes us great. I just can't say more without choking up but thank you all, and it's a great day for the Agency and the USG.

ADCI Tenet: I want to thank you all for coming. I want you to look at today as a great celebration for us. Take moment, say a prayer for our colleagues. I said last night: give each other a hug, give each other a high five. Have a cocktail before noon. And remember, remember, remember, with all due respect to the FBI, this is the best organization in the United States Government. Thank you.

The Town Meeting will be rebroadcast on the grid

[] on Thursday, June 19, at 9 a.m., noon, 3, 6, and 9 p.m.

The [] entrance will be open on Thursday and Friday, June 19 and 20, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. We expect that news media will be present near the 123 entrance at various times during the next few days, and employees may wish to avoid possible traffic backups. (This is **SECRET** in its entirety.) ▼

(U) Statement by the President

I want to express my deep appreciation to the FBI, CIA, and the Departments of State, Justice, and Defense for their extraordinary work in bringing Mir Aimal Kansi to the United States. Kansi is believed to be responsible for the killing of two CIA employees and the wounding of three others in an attack on January 25, 1993. The men and women who participated in the effort to bring Kansi here showed great courage in carrying out this mission.

The success in apprehending Kansi demonstrates that we are determined to do what is necessary to track down terrorists and bring them to justice. The United States will not relent in the pursuit of those who use violence against Americans to advance their goals—no matter how long it takes, no matter where they hide.

Today, our thoughts are also with the families of the victims. Although nothing can restore their loss, we hope that the prospect of justice in this case will bring them a measure of comfort.

(This is UNCLASSIFIED) ▼

(U) This Day in CIA History

- (U) June 19, 1952: Career Service concept introduced.
- (U) June 19, 1953: Execution of convicted spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.
- (U) June 19, 1986: FBI Agent Richard W. Miller convicted of spying for the KGB.
- (U) June 20, 1949: CIA Act of 1949 signed.
- (S) [redacted]
- (S) [redacted]
- (U) June 21, 1957: Rudolph Abel arrested as Soviet KGB "illegal" working in US.
- (S NF) [redacted]
- (U) June 22, 1951: Economic Intelligence Committee created.
- (U) June 23, 1982: President Reagan signs Intelligence Identities Protection Act during visit to the Agency [redacted]



(U) DO Africa Division
Hosts **CIA50** Celebration
on June 26 - 27